

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O MTANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102857 TOSEC 110265

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAMASCUS DTD 28 APR 76 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5737

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US SY

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN POSSIBLE FORD-ASAD MEETING

1. CAIRO PRESS, APRIL 27, CARRIED WASHINGTON AP STORY INDICATING WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN HAD ANNOUNCED PREVIOUS DAY POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND ASAD. ACCORDING PRESS, "INFORMED SOURCES" STATED SUCH A MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT MONTH. PRESS ALSO REPORTED SENATOR JAVIT'S STATEMENT, ON HIS RETURN FROM ME, THAT ASAD READY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD ASAP.

2. AT 9:30 YESTERDAY MORNING FAHMY TELEPHONED TO ASK ABOUT ABOVE PRESS REPORT. I TOLD HIM IT WAS AN INCORRECT VERSION OF WHAT WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN CARLSON HAD SAID. HE ASKED FOR TEXT. IN SUBSEQUENT CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING WITH FAHMY, I GAVE HIM THE PERTINENT

PARAGRAPH AS GIVEN IN USIA NEAR EAST, SOUTH ASIA
WIRELESS FILE, NO 81, MON., APRIL 26. FAHMY NOTED
THAT, WHILE NO SPECIFIC PLANS FOR MEETING EXIST AT
PRESENT TIME, WE ARE LEAVING OPEN POSSIBILITY OF SUCH
A MEETING.

3. I REMINDED FAHMY THAT, AS HE KNEW FROM PREVIOUS
DISCUSSIONS, PRESIDENT FORD HAS ALWAYS BEEN READY IN
PRINCIPLE TO MEET PRESIDENT ASAD IF THE LATTER SO
DESIRES. THUS, THERE WAS NOTHING NEW IN THE POSITION
EXPRESSED BY THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SPOKESMAN. FAHMY
DID NOT PURSUE THE POINT, BUT CLEARLY HAD SOME MISGIVINGS
ABOUT ANY EARLY MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND
ASAD.

4. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN SUSPICIONS OF SYRIAN INTENTIONS
REMAIN STRONG. THEY INEVITABLY WORRY THAT ANY
US PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF ASAD'S IMPORTANCE WILL, IN
ARAB EYES, SOMEHOW ENDORSE CLAIMS SYRIANS ARE STILL
ACTIVELY SPREADING ABOUT SADAT'S BETRAYAL OF ARAB CAUSE
BY SIGNING SINAI II.
EILTS UNQTE SISCO

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